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PERENNIAL HARDY ASTERS (MICHAELMAS DAISIES)

Breithaupt Gardens, Corvallis, Route 4, Oregon

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For Pacific Northwest gardens in 1950 are listed below 24 varieties of perennial hardy asters and aster-like plants, selected from a great number tested in our home flower garden. We have been growing, testing, selecting and hybridizing hardy asters for many years. The varieties marked with an asterisk (*) are our own productions. Few flowers are so versatile and easy to grow, but they need $3/4$ to full sun, fertile soil, and plenty of moisture. They vary greatly in height, color, season of bloom, and other characteristics. Preserve this list and refer to the descriptions for help in growing them. The prices quoted are postpaid.

FOUR NEW ASTERS. Your selection: One 75¢; Three \$2.00; Six \$3.50; Doz. \$6.00.

These new hardy asters are of our own production. They are early, long-blooming and not too tall for the average home garden. It is best to divide them each spring. Pacific Amaranth* is an all-round useful ornamental plant in the garden, especially for foreground planting. It grows 12 to 18 inches high and the compact plants bear a great number of rich amaranth (reddish-purple) flowers from early August through September. Pacific Horizon* bears a profusion of wisteria-blue flowers from late July for many weeks. The plants grow somewhat procumbent, about 12 inches high, useful for edging summer flower borders, especially where seasons are short. Northland Beauty* is an extra early low-growing variety, recommended particularly for short-season localities. The procumbent 9-inch plants bear medium large lavender-blue flowers in June and July. Blue Pillar* makes shapely upright plants around 24 to 30 inches high and produces an abundance of delicate blue flowers from mid-July into September. It fits in almost any perennial border combination and is valuable for interplanting with early flowers like iris to carry on after they are through.

CUSHION-TYPE DWARFS. Your selection: One 50¢; Three \$1.25; Six \$2.25; Doz. \$3.75.

The following three cushion-type dwarf asters are fine little perennials in rockery and low flower beds or edging flower and shrub borders. They bloom profusely in September into October and may be increased rapidly by division in the spring or fall. Niobe has clear white flowers on plants about 6 inches high. Little Belle* bears pretty lilac-tinted lavender flowers on nicely formed plants about 9 inches high. Rosa* has rosy-pink flowers on 12-inch plants.

THE MEDIUM TRIO. Your selection: One 60¢; Three \$1.50; Six \$2.50; Doz. \$4.50.

Here is a near red, white and blue combination hard to beat. They bloom at the same time from late August through September; colors and heights just right when arranged together. All best if divided each spring, but may be left in place two or three years. Beechwood Challenger is the nearest red aster yet available and very popular. It grows about $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet high, making shrubby plants that bear great numbers of pretty red flowers. Oregon Snowbank* grows $2\frac{1}{2}$ to $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet high, well-branched and shrub-like, having clear white flowers with golden centers. This sturdy vigorous variety is fine in any combination of mid-season asters. Purple Feather* is a strong-growing, somewhat procumbent, new dwarf aster 18 to 24 inches high that bears ray-like bluish-purple flowers profusely. The pleasing feathery effect and iron constitution suggest its use also for landscaping in large gardens, parks, or moist viewpoints along highways.

FOUR NOVI-BELGI ASTERS. Your selection: One 60¢; Three \$1.50; Six \$2.50; Doz. \$4.50.

From the wild asters of New York, plant breeders in America and Europe have produced a great many novi-belgi asters that bloom in September and October. We have tested about 50 varieties and list 4 of the best. They need support and should be divided every year or two. Mt. Everest has clear white flowers with small golden centers, 5 feet and willowy, especially good to cut. Violetta has violet-blue flowers on graceful 6-foot plants, fine with Mt. Everest. Skyland's Queen has lavender flowers and is about 4 feet. Palmyra, $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet, bears a mass of pink flowers.

FOUR NOVAE-ANGLIAE ASTERS. Your selection: One 60¢; Three \$1.50; Six \$2.50; Doz. \$4.50.

Plant breeders have produced several good varieties from the wild asters of New England. These are exceptionally hardy, but grow rather tall for the average garden, bearing their flowers in autumn high on the stems and needing support. If cut back sharply in June, the plants will grow shorter and wider. After testing many varieties, we are offering four. Divide these every 2 to 4 years. Barr's Pink we consider best of the novae-angliae to date. Extra large rosy-pink flowers from about mid-August far into September. The plants are 3 to $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet high, strong and self-supporting, leafy and shrub-like, always ornamental. Harrington's Pink, 5 feet high with lovely soft pink flowers in September. Adorable, 6 feet, nice pink flowers in October. Roycraft Purple, 6 feet, purple flowers in October.

(over)

OTHER HARDY ASTERS. Your selection: One 60¢; Three \$1.50 (Except as noted).

We have some plants of several other hardy asters. Wonder of Staffa (Frikarti). One only - \$1.00. Extra large single lavender-blue flowers all summer on shrubby plants 2 to 2½ feet high. Plenty, extra large duplex lavender flowers on upright plants 3 to 4 feet high; a fine new English aster. Ericoides Chastity, long sprays of tiny white flowers in September, especially nice when planted to entwine with shrubbery. White Plume, sprays of small pure white flowers blooming late on 4 foot upright plants--fine for cutting.

ASTER-LIKE PERENNIALS. Your selection: One 60¢; Three \$1.50; Six \$2.50; Doz. \$4.50.

The Helenium Madam Canivet is a low-growing long-blooming perennial with nice neutral-yellow flowers that provide color accent with hardy asters. It is very hardy and easy to grow, and may be divided each year or left two or three years. The season of bloom may be extended far into autumn by cutting some plants back sharply in June. The Erigeron Mucranatus is a very long-blooming, low-growing perennial with little daisy-like pink and white flowers from May to October. The slender vine-like stems form a low mat--nice for rockeries or edging low borders.

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We also offer plants of 24 Chrysanthemums selected for outdoor culture in this area. They are described in a separate list available on request.